

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FIRE MARSHAL'S DIVISION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TENTS/COOKING UNDER COVER

March 30, 2003

In order to coordinate conflicting code requirements, the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Division and the Loudoun County Health Department have come to an understanding to be used as guidance for food vendors using tents.

The Loudoun County Health Department requires all storage of open food, clean equipment and food preparation have overhead protection such as a tent, canopy or permanent structure.

Tents may be used for providing protection for cooking with an open flame, or if cooking produces grease laden vapors; IF they are equipped with a fire extinguisher, no smoking signs and a clear egress for employees. Climbing over or under equipment or tables does not constitute clear egress. Tent coverings used for protection of food shall be kept free from grease, dirt and insects.

Any tent that is used for providing protection for cooking with an open flame, or if cooking produces grease laden vapors MAY NOT be also used for assembly or gathering of people. "Combination" tents used for both cooking and people waiting in line or seating is not allowed. If provided, assembly tents shall not be located closer than 20 feet from cooking tents and can be used to serve food from warming plates or chafing dishes.

All tents larger than 400 square feet will require a permit from the Fire Marshal's Office and shall comply with the County of Loudoun Fire Code. Contact Mary Kay Graham at (703) 777-0333 for permit applications.

Issued authority of Chief Fire Marshal Flippo.